DARK HORSE COMICS

ISSUE 4

STAR WARS

THE HIGH REPUBLIC

ADVENTURES

CHAOS REIGNS WITH THE DANK GRAKS!

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STAR WARS™

THE HIGH REPUBLIC

ADVENTURES

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UNDER *UNDER* COVER.

I FINALLY MET MY HERO, *MAZ KANATA*, AND NOW SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED...

...BY THE *DANK GRAKS*, NO LESS.

UH...*GRAND GRAK ARKIK*? THERE'S A FIGHTER COMING IN FAST! LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE *EVISCERATOR* SHIPS!

‹PROBABLY THAT TWERP WHO CLAIMS HE WORKS FOR THE GRAFS. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?›*

*TRANSLATED FROM GEONOSIAN.

BAZRIP RATHT. AND I'M NOT SURE HE WAS A B--

AHAHA BLOW BLOW UP UP! KABOOMY!

THEY DON'T KNOW WHO I AM. WHAT I AM.

THEY'RE HAILING US ON THE COMMS.

‹PUT IT THROUGH.›

AND THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA STAY.

SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT 'EM...

THIS IS BAZRIP RATHT!

AND I'M HERE TO BECOME A *DANK GRAK!*

...IS TO JOIN 'EM!

<‹HRM. SEEMS DUBIOUS.›
AW COME ON! WE COULD USE A NEW MEMBER! ESPECIALLY WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON.
‹DRRN? LAVALOX?›
SAYA KEEM.
ARKIK VON.
‹AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN JOIN MY ELITE BAND OF FORCE SORCERERS, BOY? HM? SPEAK UP!›
WELL, FOR STARTERS...
HRMMMM.
AIYOO, IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, HE MAY BE TASTY? SO!
DRRN.
LAVALOX VERZEN.
UM...YOU ALL KNOW I CAN HEAR YOU, RIGHT?
...WE BOTH KNOW WHAT MY SHIP CAN DO TO YOUR SHIP IF I DON'T GET MY WAY.
VZZZHHHHHHHHHRRRRRRRRRR!

I KNEW YOU'D SEE THINGS MY WAY! NOW--

<JUST A MINUTE, YOUNG FELLOW! SURELY YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST THREATEN THE ALL-MASTER OF THE GRAKS AND THEN GET WHATEVER YOU WANT!>

UM... YEAH?

<WRONG, KNAVE. FIRST YOU MUST PASS...>

<...THE TRIAL OF THE GRAKS!!!>

99% SURE YOU JUST MADE THAT UP.

BY ALL MEANS, TRIAL AWAY.

‹PART THE FIRST OF THE TRIAL OF THE GRAKS--A TEST OF KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL HISTORY!›
THIS IS NOT A REAL THING.
‹YOU KNOW, I PRESUME, THAT THE DANK GRAKS WERE EACH PART OF A FORCE CULT BEFORE COMING TO ME. WHICH ONE WERE *YOU* PART OF, RATHT?›
‹AND, PART TWO--*WHY* ARE YOU NO LONGER WITH THEM?›

THIS ONE IS EASY, ACTUALLY.
THE ONLY CLASS I PAID ATTENTION IN WAS WHEN *MASTER TERA SINUBE* VISITED TO LECTURE ON FORCE CULTS AROUND THE GALAXY.
I DID MY PRESENTATION ON...
THE *CENTRAL ISOPTER.*
UNLIKE MOST OF THE OTHER JEDI I'D MET, TERA SINUBE DIDN'T ACT LIKE RULES AND PROTOCOLS WERE WHAT MADE THE GALAXY GO 'ROUND.
HE COULD MAKE ANY SUBJECT FEEL ALIVE, AND THAT MADE ME WANT TO LEARN ABOUT IT, TOO.
I WOULD'VE GIVEN MY LEFT ARM FOR HIM TO HAVE BEEN MY MASTER INSTEAD OF ORNERY OLD TOE-SHAPED KAKTORFF.
WE LOVE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION! TRAVELED THE GALAXY SEEKING IT OUT.
BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A SENSE OF HUMOR, SADLY.
SO I HAD TO FLY.

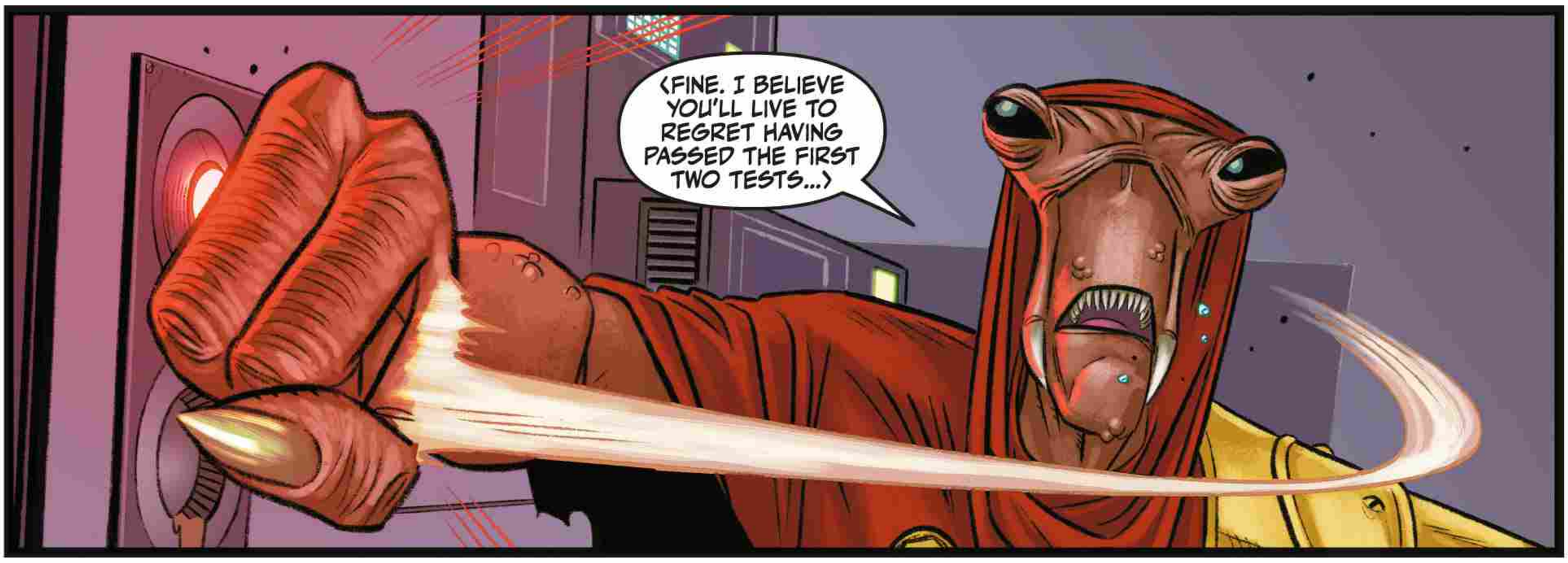
‹INTERESTING, IF UNLIKELY. VERY WELL.›
YOU TRAVELED THE GALAXY SEEKING OUT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION? *INCREDIBLE.*
MMMMM DEATH AHEHEHE YUM...

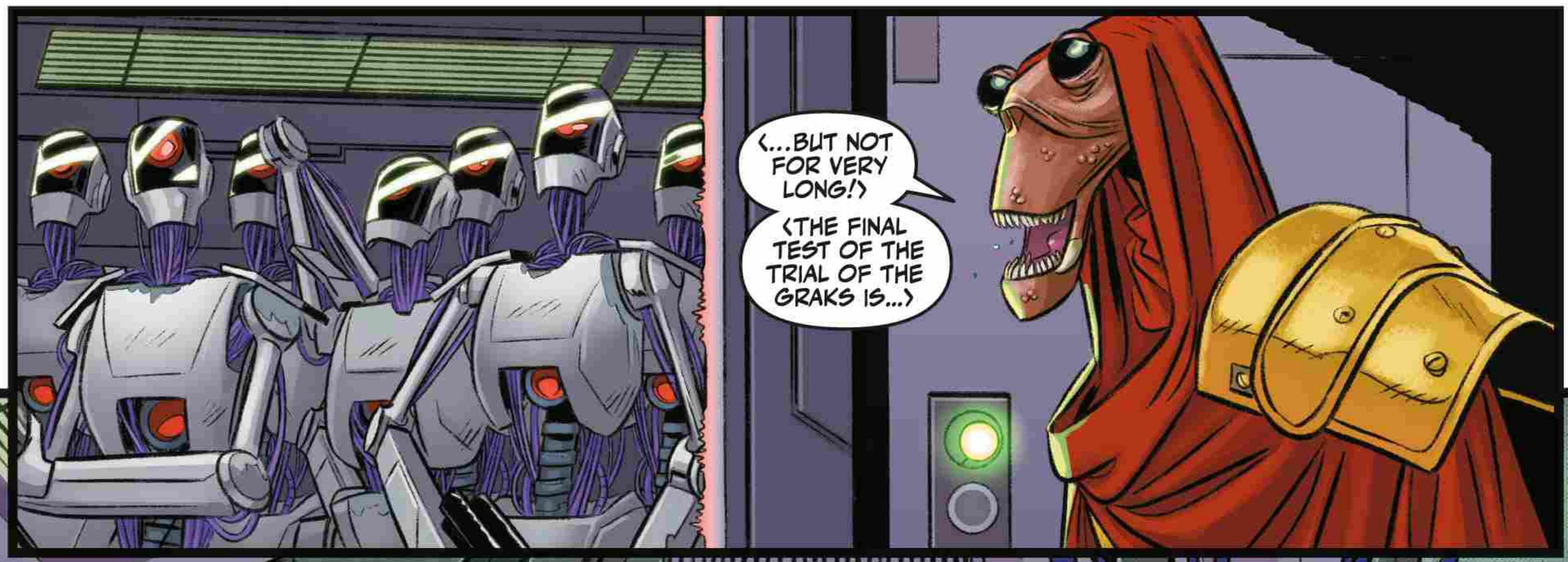
‹BUT PART TWO OF THE TRIAL OF THE GRAKS IS TO TEST WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE AN ADEQUATE FORCE-USER, AND THAT...›
‹...I... OH MY...›

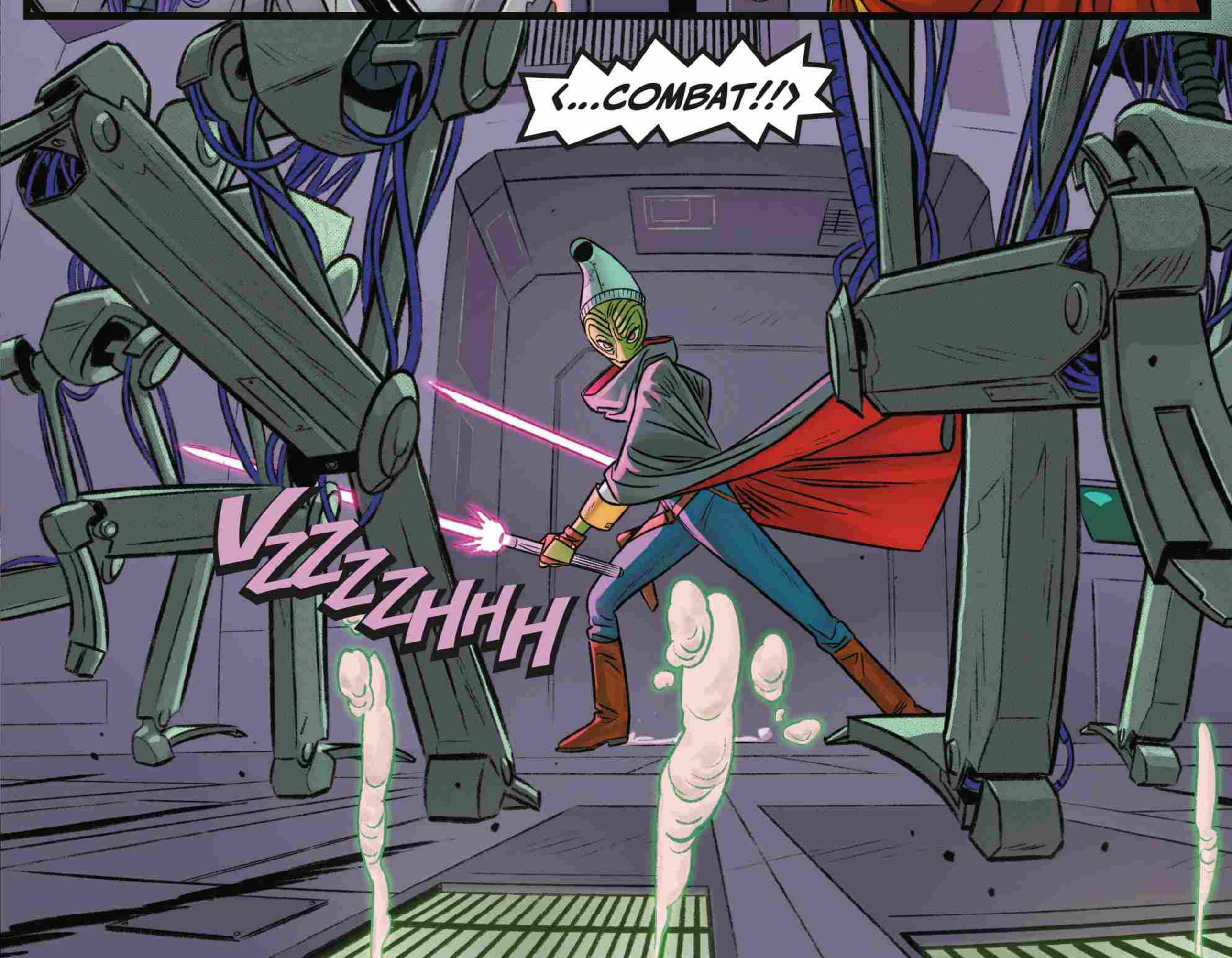
HRN?

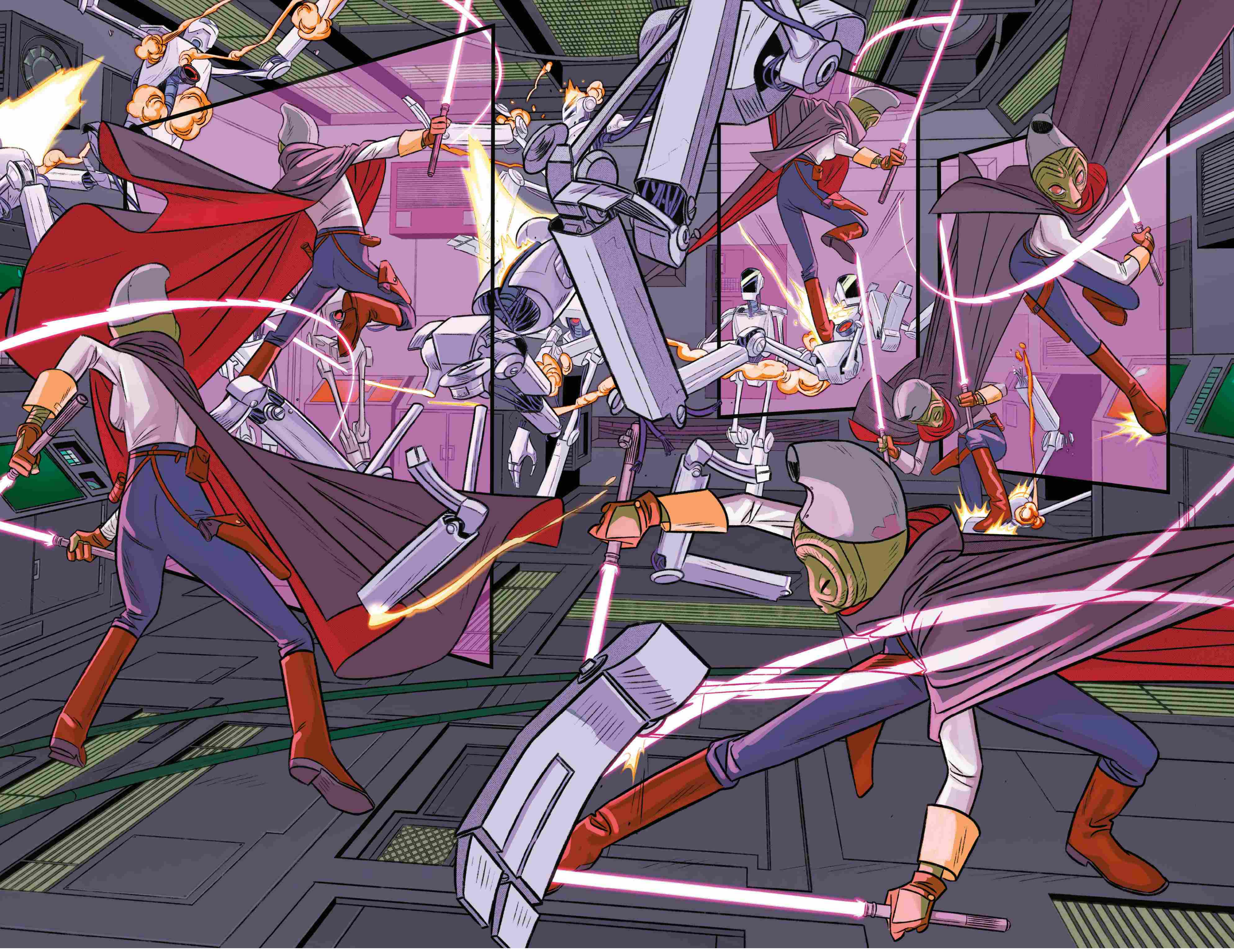
WHEEEEEEEEEE!!

ADADADAADA!?


〈FINE. I BELIEVE YOU'LL LIVE TO REGRET HAVING PASSED THE FIRST TWO TESTS...〉


〈...BUT NOT FOR VERY LONG!〉
〈THE FINAL TEST OF THE TRIAL OF THE GRAKS IS...〉


〈...COMBAT!!〉
VZZZZHHH



DID I PASS?

ZZNK!

BLESSED BROKEN STAR OF THE ANCIENT ABYSS! THAT WAS *BEYOND!*

AZAMMY!

‹GOOD THING WE HAVE MORE OF THOSE, OTHERWISE I'D BE QUITE PUT OUT. ONE QUESTION, THOUGH...›

I WAS READY FOR THIS ONE...

‹...*WHERE* DID YOU ACQUIRE A *LIGHTSABER?!*›

...AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S A LIE...

OH! FUNNY STORY, ACTUALLY...

...I MURDERED A JEDI FOR IT.

...IT STILL HURTS TO SAY THE WORDS.

TERA SINUBE, HIS NAME WAS.

AHHH I KNOW OF HIM! A COSIAN LIKE ME!

THAT'S THE GUY.

ONE QUESTION: WHAT DID HE TASTE LIKE??

A BIT BLAND, ACTUALLY.

‹ALRIGHT. I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. IT'S VERY LIKELY YOU'RE LYING, BUT EVEN IF YOU ARE, WELL...YOU'VE PASSED ALL THE TRIALS. I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE YOU...›

‹...A *PROVISIONAL* MEMBER OF THE DANK GRAKS.›

YEEEEEEEE!!

‹EMPHASIS ON PROVISIONAL! WE'LL SEE HOW YOU DO ON *JEDHA*.›

‹SAYA, YOU MAY GET HIM SITUATED.›

WOOHOO! COME ON, BAZZY!

JEDHA?!

THE WHOLE *GRIM DEVOURER* IS POWERED BY THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE SUPPOSEDLY. I HAVEN'T TOTALLY FIGURED OUT THE MECHANICS YET.

BUT I'M WORKING ON IT!

OH, YEAH, THIS IS EXCELLENT WORK. NICE, NICE. VERY MOTIF.

HEY, SAYA, UH...

...WHAT'RE WE DOING ON JEDHA?

SUPPOSED TO BE STARTING A WAR OR SOMETHING, I DUNNO. ARKIK IS ALL TANGLED UP WITH SOME WEIRD CULT GUYS AND THEY GOT US AND A FEW OTHER GROUPS CAUSING AS MUCH TROUBLE AS POSSIBLE.

ANYWAY, C'MON, I'LL SHOW YOU THE MESS HALL!

STARTING A WAR? ON JEDHA?

SAYA, WAIT! WHERE'S THE--UH--LITTLE GRAKS' ROOM?

THE VENOMED SCABBARD COME IN! COME IN, CREW! HELLO?

TCHHH! TCHHHHH!

FERRIK! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, THIS IS SAV MALAGÁN ONBOARD THE GRIM DEVOURER. HAVEN'T FOUND MAZ YET, BUT THE GRAKS ARE HEADING TO JEDHA TO HELP START A WAR!

WELCOME TO THE GALLEY! THIS IS WHERE I DO ALL THE COOKING AND--

WAIT, YOU DO ALL THE COOKING YOURSELF?

TRUST ME, IF YOU TASTED THE OTHERS' ATTEMPTS, YOU'D UNDERSTA--

AII! HRFF!

SCOOT

LAVALOX! GRR!

UP YOU GO!

AHAHAHA HAHAHA!

THANKS.

WAIT--IS *THAT* WHY YOU'RE SO EXCITED I'M HERE? SO I CAN DO THE CHORES INSTEAD OF YOU?

I MEAN, I COULD USE A HAND! LAVALOX FILLS UP THAT LITTER BOX SUPER FAST THESE DAYS!

NOT LAVALOX'S FAULT THE FOOD IS IFFY! IF IF!

HMPH!

NO BUT SERIOUSLY, THAT'S NOT IT! IT'S JUST THAT...

...THERE'S NO ONE ELSE MY AGE HERE AND SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE ONLY FAMILY I'VE EVER KNOWN, I STILL DON'T REALLY FIT IN.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN?

I DO. I REALLY DO.

ANYWAY, I KNOW YOUR SECRET!

HUH?!

KARK STAR!

OF COURSE! WE'RE NOT ALL AS GULLIBLE AS OLD ARKIK, YOU KNOW!

BUT--

MAYBE I'M NOT SUCH A GOOD UNDERCOVER OP AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE NOT A *BOY* AT ALL, ARE YOU?!

WHA--OH, I...I MEAN...

IS IT REALLY A LIE IF YOU JUST LET PEOPLE WHO GO AROUND MAKING ASSUMPTIONS REMAIN IN THEIR IGNORANCE?

IT'S FINE. I HATE ALL BOYS ANYWAY.

OH! HAHAHA! ME TOO, MOSTLY.

EXCEPT OL' DRRN, OF COURSE! BUT HE HARDLY COUNTS!

RRRRRRRNN.

GAH!

GUY'S LIKE A HUNDRED--HARDLY A BOY!

IS HE JUST--ALWAYS EVERYWHERE?

PRETTY MUCH. WAIT--- WATCH THIS...

UH...

SCOOT!

SEVEN CELESTIAL STAR MAPS! YOU'RE MAD!

KRONK!

YEAH YEAH-NOW RUN!!

HERE! SHH!

EEP!

RRRRRRRR

OKAY, I THINK HE'S GONE!

WHEW! HOW DO YOU...HOW DO YOU GUYS LIVE LIKE THIS? YOU GOTTA BE ON GUARD ALL THE TIME!

THE LAST PLACE I WAS BEFORE HERE WAS WITH A RICH FAMILY ON CORUSCANT--

--ALL THOSE FANCY DINNER PARTIES AND BALLS AND POLITE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR A CHINK IN YOUR ARMOR SO THEY CAN SLIDE A BLADE THROUGH IT...

WHOA!

...WAY I SEE IT IS, THERE'S NOT A THING IN THIS GALAXY THAT COULD MAKE ME FEEL MORE STRESSED OUT AND ON GUARD THAN LIVING IN THAT CAREFULLY MANICURED HELL HOLE.

ANYWAY, HERE WE ARE! TAKE THIS SLEEPING POUCH AND FIND A SPOT.

WHAT'S THIS PLACE?

FOR THE MOMENT, LET'S CALL IT...

...HOME.

THE VENOMED SCABBARD.

COMING UP ON JEDHA, EVERYBODY.

ALRIGHT, GEAR UP. I'LL ALERT *RAF* TO WHAT'S GOING ON.

WHAT?! OUR ENEMIES ARE TRYING TO START A ***WAR*** IN THE ***HOLY CITY.*** AND WE DON'T KNOW IF MAZ IS OKAY. WE ***MIGHT*** NEED BACKUP!

NOT FROM ***THE LAW,*** ALAK!! WE'RE PIRATES!

AND WE'RE TRYING TO STOP A WAR, NOT START ONE!

AH, ACTUALLY WE MIGHT NEED THAT BACKUP AFTER ALL!

WE'RE ALREADY TOO LATE!

TO BE CONTINUED

In our next installment . . .

On sale May 2023!